Ben Calkins Portfolio Period 4 English 9

**The Cask of Amontillado**

Albert Fish

The Cask of Amontillado, by Edgar Allan Poe, delivers us a chilling story of a man seeking revenge. In Poe’s stories I find the main point of fear is that of killing without purpose. Serial Killing. We know that in the Cask of Amontillado the villain was seeking “revenge”, but we are never given an actual reason that he cemented this man into a wall. The picture is of Albert Fish, a notorious serial killer . The kids he devours don’t do anything to hurt or bother him, but his lust for death leads to the death of innocent children. Pictures like these remind me of Poe’s stories, such as the cask of Amontillado.

Song lyrics

Eminem- Stan

Dear Mister-I'm-Too-Good-To-Call-Or-Write-My-Fans,

this'll be the last package I ever send your ass

It's been six months and still no word - I don't deserve it?

I know you got my last two letters;

I wrote the addresses on 'em perfect

So this is my cassette I'm sending you, I hope you hear it

I'm in the car right now, I'm doing 90 on the freeway

Hey Slim, I drank a fifth of vodka, you dare me to drive?

You know the song by Phil Collins, "In the Air of the Night"

about that guy who coulda saved that other guy from drowning

but didn't, then Phil saw it all, then at a a show he found him?

That's kinda how this is, you coulda rescued me from drowning

Now it's too late - I'm on a 1000 downers now, I'm drowsy

and all I wanted was a lousy letter or a call

I hope you know I ripped +ALL+ of your pictures off the wall

I love you Slim, we coulda been together, think about it

You ruined it now, I hope you can't sleep and you dream about it

And when you dream I hope you can't sleep and you SCREAM about it

I hope your conscience EATS AT YOU and you can't BREATHE without me

See Slim; [\*screaming\*] Shut up bitch! I'm tryin to talk!

Hey Slim, that's my girlfriend screamin in the trunk

but I didn't slit her throat, I just tied her up, see I ain't like you

cause if she suffocates she'll suffer more, and then she'll die too

Well, gotta go, I'm almost at the bridge now

Oh shit, I forgot, how'm I supposed to send this shit out?

[car tires squeal] [CRASH]

.. [brief silence] .. [LOUD splash]

Eminem tells the story of a fan named Stan who adores Eminem and his music. Feeling betrayed by Eminem, who hasn’t answered his fan mail, Stan goes mad and drives himself and his pregnant wife off of a bridge in a psychotic rage. This ties in with the idea of not only revenge, but almost a revenge that has no real meaning. Stan kills himself and pregnant wife over some unanswered fan mail. Seems pretty ridiculous huh? Well in the Cask of Amontillado we find Montressor cementing Fortunato into a wall over “the thousand injuries of Fortunato”.

**The Lady or the Tiger**



Reading the story the Lady or the Tiger you see a theme of choice and decision. The princess holds the fate of the man she loves and can either send him to a man eating tiger or a beautiful fair lady. The story leaves no ending and we often like to debate what happened. After looking at it closely, it doesn’t matter what she chose, because either way the King, who set up this system of judgment, wins. Whether he marries the man off or kills him off, either way he has gotten rid of the man. In this picture we see the Charleotte Bobcats, who set the worst record in NBA history, against the Miami Heat, the reigning NBA champions. There is no way Charlotte can win; just as there is no way that the story can end without the King having his way. (also note that Lebron James, the heat’s best player is nicknamed “the king”)

To noble heart Love doth for shelter fly,  
As seeks the bird the forest's leafy shade;  
Love was not felt till noble heart beat high,  
Nor before love the noble heart was made.  
Soon as the sun's broad flame  
Was formed, so soon the clear light filled the air;  
Yet was not till he came:  
So love springs up in noble breasts, and there  
Has its appointed space,  
As heat in the bright flames finds its allotted place.  
Kindles in noble heart the fire of love,  
As hidden virtue in the precious stone:  
This virtue comes not from the stars above,  
Till round it the ennobling sun has shone;  
But when his powerful blaze  
Has drawn forth what was vile, the stars impart  
Strange virtue in their rays;  
And thus when Nature doth create the heart  
Noble and pure and high,  
Like virtue from the star, love comes from woman's eye.

A big part of the theme of the story for me was the nature of love. For the princess is faced with a choice of what to tell her loved one. She can send him to a man eating tiger, or marry him off to her worst enemy. In the end I think she chose the Lady for the one she loved. I believe that the true nature of people is good, and so I also believe the true nature of love is good. She loved him enough to let him go. Reading this poem really spoke to the nature of love, and when I read the poem it leads me to believe that she had to choose the lady.

**The Most Dangerous Game**



The story “The Most Dangerous Game” has an underlying theme of reason vs. instinct. We have General Zharoff who praises his ability to reason over the beasts he hunts instinct. “No animal had a chance with me anymore. Instinct is no match for reason.” He proclaims all these things while he in fact is killing people with no regard for human life which makes him more animal than anyone. The author uses this idea of instinct vs. reason and blends the border of it. Rainsford, who in the beginning disregards the idea of the hunted having any feelings, but when he’s the hunted his instinct and emotions of fear leads to his him using his reason to help him kill the one hunting him. This picture portrays the overall theme of reason vs. instinct.

Born To Be Wild- Steppenwolf

Yeah, darlin'

Gonna make it happen

Take the world in a love embrace

Fire all of your guns at once

And explode into space

Like a true nature child

We were born

Born to be wild

We can climbed so high

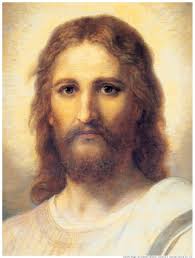
I never wanna die

Born to be wild

Born to be wild

Richard Connell writes this story and leaves us wondering if the hunter Rainsford is a changed man now that he has experienced what being hunted is like. I think he is more the same than ever. You can take the beast out of the wild, but you can’t take the wild out of the beast. You can put Rainsford in the situation of a n instinctual animal being hunted, but he’ll always be the same beast of a hunter. Rainsford really was “Born to be Wild”.

**The Lottery**



The idea behind the lottery in this made up land is like religion. We don’t really choose our religion. We are born into a religion, and, for the most part, we tend to keep that religion and not question it. This is the same thing that happens with the lottery. The idea of the killing of a random citizen is merely based on whim, no real evidence. People just go with it. Just like how people go with the idea of Jesus Christ, who is shown above.

Let it Be- The Beatles

And when the broken hearted people living in the world [agree](http://www.lyrics007.com/The%20Beatles%20Lyrics/Let%20it%20Be%20Lyrics.html)  
There will be an answer, let it be  
For though they may be parted, there is still a chance that they will see  
There will be an answer, let it be  
Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be  
There will be an answer, let it be  
Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be  
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be  
Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be  
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be

In this story “The Lottery” we have innocent people being killed, and no one cares. They essentially “Let it Be”. The real message though this story is trying to talk about is how humans care for themselves before others. No one complains about the lottery, until you’re chosen. The people every year see other people killed and don’t complain they adopt the idea “Let it Be”. Then when someone is chosen that person complains about the system. Tessie Hutchinson, the one chosen, argues “It is not fair. Come on, Come on, everyone.” She hasn’t said anything about how it was unfair when other people were, and that is what I think the story is trying to get at.

**Where have you been, where are you going?**

It’s all over now, Baby Blue- Bob Dylan

You must leave now, take what you need, you think will last

But whatever you wish to keep, you better grab it fast

Yonder stands your orphan with his gun

Crying like a fire in the sun

Look out the saints are comin' through

And it's all over now, Baby Blue.

The highway is for gamblers, better use your sense

Take what you have gathered from coincidence

The empty handed painter from your streets

Is drawing crazy patterns on your sheets

This sky, too, is folding under you

And it's all over now, Baby Blue.

All your seasick sailors, they are rowing home

Your empty handed armies, are all going home

Your lover who just walked out the door

Has taken all his blankets from the floor

The carpet, too, is moving under you

And it's all over now, Baby Blue.

Leave your stepping stones behind, something calls for you

Forget the dead you've left, they will not follow you

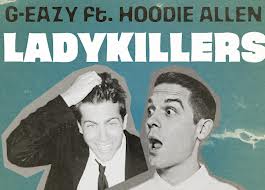
The vagabond who's rapping at your door

Is standing in the clothes that you once wore

Strike another match, go start a new

And it's all over now, Baby Blue.

Reading this story you are left at the end with a plethora of questions unanswered. The story is what you make of it and that’s how the author wrote it. Joyce Carol Oates wrote this book based on a true story, which I will mention later, but was inspired by Bob Dylan’s song “It’s all over now Baby Blue”. The way I interpret what happened is I imagine some kind of transformation. Some people may read it as a changing from girl to lady, others interpreting the man as the devil. I think that she’s headed not to hell, but to a form of afterlife. “The carpet, too, is moving under you And it's all over now, Baby Blue.” It’s all over now, as in life is now over, but not in the sense that she’s headed to hell. There is a mellow feeling, but it has a calming feel. It’s all over now acts like a reassuring phrase, and when reading these lyrics I see how it inspired the author.



Arnold Friend, the antagonist of the story, drives up to Connie’s door in his gold car and sunglasses on and uses his killer looks to try and seduce Connie. He showers her with compliments and encouragements to come with him and along with his attractive looks he attempts to coax her into the car. He is what society would call a “lady killer”, yes, both figuratively and actually as we can pull from the events the story was based upon and use foreshadowing to figure he actually did kill Connie. G-Eazy and Hoodie Allen are some two rappers with some serious girl game, the typical “Lady Killer”. The difference is they aren’t actually convicted of murder.

**Orientation**

99 Problems- Jay Z

I got the rap patrol on the gat patrol

Foes that wanna make sure my casket's closed

Rap critics that say he's "Money Cash Hoes"

I'm from the hood stupid what type of facts are those

If you grew up with holes in your zapatos

You'd celebrate the minute you was having dough

I'm like fuck critics you can kiss my whole asshole

If you don't like my lyrics you can press fast forward

Got beef with radio if I don't play they show

They don't play my hits well I don't give a shit SO

Rap mags try and use my black ass

So advertisers can give em more cash for ads...fuckers

I don't know what you take me as

or understand the intelligence that Jay-Z has

I'm from rags to riches nigga I ain't dumb

I got 99 problems but a bitch ain't one

Hit me

99 Problems but a bitch ain't one

If you having girl problems I feel bad for you son

I got 99 problems but a bitch ain't one

Hit me

The story Orientation is about a person being taken around a tour of an office. What the story is about is people in the offices problems. “Kevin Howard sits in that cubicle over there, He is a serial killer the one they call the carpet cutter, responsible for the mutilations across town.” The story goes on about the various peoples’ problems. The author of the story, Daniel Orozco, put it this way. “That’s how we reveal ourselves, not when there are problems, but when there are a bunch of problems.” By “a bunch” the author probably wasn’t referring to ninety-nine problems, but I think this Jay-Z song speaks towards the story. It’s all about the problems and how you reveal yourself.



Yes, these are three of the actors from the show the office. I could easily just say that this is the show the office and “Orientation” is a story about an office, but I think the story reaches a different level. The story is all about the people in the office and how they are outside of the office, which is why I chose this picture. It is three people from the office outside of the office. The author uses these qualities of the people in “Orientation” to poke fun at the typical modern day cubicle office and “comically absurd employment”. The author switches topics from jobs to gossip almost seamlessly as if knowing someone is just as important as knowing where everything is. Daniel Orozco comments on the absurdity of the office “Writing about work is fascinating because I think that is where we reveal ourselves the most.”